



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**HUGH MORRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

AND

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.**

**G. M. PAWSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.**

OF THE

**BOROUGH OF TAUNTON**

**FOR THE YEAR 1973**





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## BOROUGH OF TAUNTON

### PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Chairman of Committee — Cllr. St. J. H. C. Carew-Fisher

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#### Staff

Medical Officer of Health — — Dr. H. Morrison, M.B.,  
Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health — Dr. M. Thomson, M.B.,  
Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector — Mr. G. M. Pawson,  
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Senior Public Health Inspector — Mr. L. G. Hopes, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors Mr. G. W. Mathews,  
M.A.P.H.I.

Mr. G. N. Stephens,  
M.A.P.H.I.

Mr. P. Yates, M.A.P.H.I.

Meat Inspector — — — Mr. G. Coe

Senior Clerk — — — Mrs. D. Hamilton

Technical Assistant — — — Miss B. Cullimore

Part-time clerk — — — Mrs. J. Hunt

Pest Officer — — — Mr. K. J. Devenish

Trainee Public Health Inspectors — Mr. B. Hosford  
Mr. P. Weaver



Public Health Department,  
Chadwick House,  
11 Middle Street,  
Taunton.  
March 1974

The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses,  
THE BOROUGH OF TAUNTON

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a very abbreviated Annual Report for the year 1973. Because of the pressure of work on the Health Department due to the impending re-organisation of Local Government it has not been found possible to provide a Report in the comprehensive form of previous years.

So far as the general provisions for Health Services in the District are concerned these have not varied to any substantial extent from those described in my Report for 1972.

Far-reaching changes will shortly take place in the organisation of preventive and curative health work in this as in all other areas of the country. As a result of local government re-organisation the Borough of Taunton will form part of the larger district of Taunton Deane which will have a population of more than double that of the present Borough. Matters of environmental health will become the responsibility of the new District Council, and at the official level will be under the control of an Environmental Health Officer. It gives me pleasure and satisfaction to know that Mr. Pawson, the present Chief Public Health Inspector of the Borough has been selected to fill this important post. I have been closely in touch with his work over many years and I have no doubt that he will carry out the duties of his new position with ability and distinction.

The National Health Service also is to be re-organised, and integration will take place of the three branches whose personnel have up to now tended sometimes to pursue divergent or isolationist lines: General Practitioners, Hospital Medical Staff and Public Health officers. It is believed that this will result in an improved service to the community and to the individual patient.

A casualty of the new order of things will be the Medical Officer of Health. This honoured office will disappear, after a period of roughly a hundred years, during which time many doctors have devoted their lives to the duties of Medical Officer of Health, with results to the benefit of the community that are acknowledged by all. Those medical men who will be continuing with Public Health work, and those who will be taking up a career in this field, will enter the National Health Service as Community Physicians. Their services will still be available to advise Local Authorities on matters in which medical expertise is required.

While one may feel legitimate pride and satisfaction in the good work done by Medical Officers of Health in the past, the time has now come to look to the future, and there is reason to believe that great benefits to the health of the community in general, and to those individuals who are inflicted with illness, will result from the unification of the National Health Service.

I wish again to express appreciation of the valuable help I have received during the year from the Chairman and Members of the Health and Welfare Committee, from Dr. Thomson who acts as my deputy when the occasion arises, and from fellow officials of the Council.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

HUGH MORRISON,

Medical Officer of Health.

# BOROUGH OF TAUNTON

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1973

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Acreage of Borough .. .. .	2,581
Population (estimated by Registrar General, mid-year) ..	37,570

### VITAL STATISTICS

It should be pointed out that in the figures which follow the standardisation of the rate for births and deaths allows for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, and is obtained by multiplying the crude rate by a comparability factor for the district furnished by the Registrar General. This enables comparison to be made with the figures for the country as a whole, or with those for other districts.

#### 1. Births.

##### (a) Live Births

	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	217	190	407
Illegitimate .. .. .	18	20	38
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>445</b>
Birth Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .			11.8
Standardised Birth Rate:—			
Taunton .. .. .			12.0
England and Wales .. .. .			13.7
Percentage illegitimate of total live births .. .. .			9.0

##### (b) Still births

Total .. .. .	4
Rate per 1,000 live and still births:—	
Taunton .. .. .	9.0
England and Wales .. .. .	12.0
Total live and still births .. .. .	449



## 2. Deaths.

(a) Total deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	479
Death rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.7
Standardised Death Rate:—							
Taunton	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.0
England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.0
(b) Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year):—							
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births:—							
Taunton	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.0
England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.0
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.0
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.0

### Causes of Infant Deaths

Cause of Death	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Totals under 1 year
Diseases of Respiratory System ..	2	—	2
Congenital anomalies .. ..	1	—	1
Difficult delivery and/or Anoxic condition .. .. .	3	—	3
Totals .. .. .	6	—	6

(c) Maternal Mortality							
Total Maternal Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(d) Deaths from Cancer							
Cancer of the lung	..	..	Males	..	..	..	11
			Females	..	..	..	2
			Total	..	..	..	13
Cancer in all other situations	..	..	Males	..	..	..	34
			Females	..	..	..	49
			Total	..	..	..	83

## REGISTRAR GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS

<i>Cause of Death</i>			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	..	..	3	2	5
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	6	7	13
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	..	..	6	10	16
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	..	..	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	11	2	13
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	—	10	10
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	..	..	3	—	3
Leukaemia	..	..	1	1	2
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	..	..	14	19	33
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	..	..	1	1	2
Diabetes mellitus	..	..	2	4	6
Avitaminoses, etc.	..	..	—	1	1
Other endocrine etc., diseases	..	..	1	0	1
Mental disorders	..	..	—	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system	..	..	2	4	6
Hypertensive Heart Disease	..	..	5	13	18
Ischaemic heart disease	..	..	71	39	110
Other forms of heart disease	..	..	10	18	28
Cerebrovascular disease	..	..	37	43	80
Other diseases of circulatory system	..	..	13	19	32
Influenza	..	..	4	3	7
Pneumonia	..	..	18	19	37
Bronchitis and emphysema	..	..	5	3	8
Asthma	..	..	1	0	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	5	1	6
Peptic ulcer	..	..	2	1	3
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	..	..	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of liver	..	..	0	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	..	..	2	2	4
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	..	..	0	1	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	..	..	1	2	3
Congenital anomalies	..	..	1	1	2
Difficult delivery and/or anoxic condition	..	..	3	—	3
Illdefined symptoms and conditions	..	..	2	2	4
Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	2	2	4
All other accidents	..	..	4	4	8
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	..	..	1	1	2
All other external causes	..	..	—	1	1
All Causes	..	..	240	239	479

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was a sharp outbreak of measles in the early part of the year producing 154 cases. Apart from that, the prevalence of infectious disease was at a low level. Notifications were received as follows :—

Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	154
Infective jaundice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Ophthalmia neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Food poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Tuberculosis								
Pulmonary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Non-pulmonary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**  
**for the year 1973**

March 1974

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses,  
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with much pleasure that I present my report for 1973; and it is interesting to note that it is the last full one before the Borough becomes part of the new enlarged Taunton Deane District which will also embrace the Taunton Rural District and the two Wellington Districts and comes into being on 1st April next year. As might be expected our work during the year has had a two fold character—first to carry on all our normal routines and inspections, and secondly to plan and work for the smooth merging of the four districts. It is with the former that this report is mainly concerned. There have been a number of staff changes during the year, and the first was the appointment on 1st January of Mrs. J. Hunt as part-time clerk/typist. Shortly afterwards Mr. Devenish joined us as the Pest Control Operative. Mr. H. Chapman who had been a Trainee P.H.I. since 1969 resigned for personal reasons. Last year I omitted to mention that we appointed Mr. B. Hosford as Trainee P.H.I.; and it is with pleasure that I report his having passed the Intermediate examination of the Public Health Inspectors Education Board in June of this year. In September we appointed Mr. P. Weaver as our second Trainee. The only staff member to attend a course was Mr. L. G. Hopes who went to Bath University to study food microbiology. Several staff members have secured senior appointments in the new Taunton Deane authority and I would like to congratulate Messrs. L. G. Hopes and G. W. Mathews who become Principal Public Health Inspectors, Messrs G. N. Stephens and P. Yates who become Area Public Health Inspectors and Mrs. D. Hamilton who will be the Administrative Assistant.

The general work of the Department has continued very much as before with most of the time being devoted to meat inspection, housing in all its various aspects, food hygiene and the inspection of premises under the Offices, Shops & Railways Premises Act. Besides all this there have been a multitude of other smaller duties which form an integral part of the work of any health department, and these are elaborated in the body of the Report. The only innovation of note has been the establishment of a station to monitor the pollution of the atmosphere by smoke or sulphur dioxide.



During the year there has been no major Act of Parliament which has had any considerable effect on the work of the Health Department; but there have been numerous Regulations and Circulars relating among other things to Poisonous Wastes, Smoke Control, Brucellosis, Lead in Food, Environmental Pollution, and sites for gypsy caravans which have had considerable interest for all in the field of public health.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Chairman and members of the Health and Welfare Committee, the Medical Officer of Health and all members of the staff for their unfailing co-operation and kindness at all times.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

G. M. PAWSON,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.



## SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

### Housing and General Sanitary Work

Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts .. .. .	269
Houses inspected under the Housing and Rent Acts .. .. .	334
Houses inspected under the Taunton Corporation Act .. .. .	16
Re-inspections under the above Acts .. .. .	1,537
Houses in Multiple Occupation inspected and re-visited .. .. .	455
Miscellaneous housing inspections .. .. .	44
Smoke observations, etc. .. .. .	218
Moveable dwellings .. .. .	29
Dealers in old metal .. .. .	2
Infectious diseases and disinfections .. .. .	29
Drainage, in connection with .. .. .	448
Factories .. .. .	413
Hairdressers .. .. .	56
Infested or Verminous premises .. .. .	157
Interviews .. .. .	726
Meteorological Readings .. .. .	365
Noise, in connection with .. .. .	143
Offensive trades .. .. .	5
Animal nuisances .. .. .	4
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises—Inspections .. .. .	135
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises—Re-visits .. .. .	824
Outworkers .. .. .	—
Pet Shops .. .. .	7
Cinemas and Places of Entertainment .. .. .	16
Refuse collection and disposal .. .. .	20
Rag Flock premises .. .. .	0
Rodent Control (excluding visits by Rodent Operator) .. .. .	136
Schools .. .. .	43
Shops (Shops Acts) .. .. .	24
Swimming Baths .. .. .	47
Water Sampling .. .. .	238
Water Supply .. .. .	133
Miscellaneous visits .. .. .	297
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>7,070</b>

### Complaints

The number of all complaints received during the year shows little variation from previous years, and the total of 909 was sub-divided as follows:—

Housing Conditions .. .. .	66
Drainage .. .. .	115
Rats .. .. .	160
Mice .. .. .	153
Insects .. .. .	58
Wasps .. .. .	46
Unsound food etc. .. .. .	188
Noise .. .. .	27
Offices and Shops etc. .. .. .	27
Miscellaneous .. .. .	69

The figures for housing and drainage remain almost unchanged, those for rats and mice a slight increase which is more pronounced for the latter. The figure of 188 for food complaints represents an increase of over 40% on the 1972 total.

### Housing Repairs

This part of our responsibilities, whilst being one of the most important, is not on the same significant scale as in former years. This has been a gradual change which started about twelve or more years ago when an increasing number of young married couples were buying their own houses; and has been linked with a corresponding increase in the number of Improvement Grants associated with such purchases, and our own Improvement Area survey which takes place each year and covers about 200 houses at a time. In most instances any repairs are effected through informal action under the Public Health Acts, and it is rarely taken under the Housing Acts. It is very uncommon that statutory action has to be invoked to secure the necessary compliance.

During the year 66 complaints were received, but many defects were found during the course of the survey. The total number of individual items which received attention was 928—a slight decrease over the previous year's total of 978.

### Housing Repairs 1973

Drains cleared .. .. .	53
Drains or sewers renewed or repaired .. .. .	10
New drains provided .. .. .	74
Sewers cleared .. .. .	49
Cesspools emptied .. .. .	—
Inspection chambers built .. .. .	62
Inspection chambers repaired .. .. .	5
Inspection chambers—new covers provided .. .. .	3
New gullies provided .. .. .	2
Yard surfaces renewed or repaired .. .. .	6
Eaves gutters renewed .. .. .	4
Eaves gutters repaired .. .. .	5
Rainwater pipes renewed or repaired .. .. .	4
Waterclosets provided .. .. .	79
W.C. pans renewed .. .. .	11
W.C. flushing cisterns provided .. .. .	18
Flush pipes repaired .. .. .	2
W.C.'s new seats provided .. .. .	—
Roofs renewed .. .. .	6
Roofs repaired .. .. .	28
Chimney stacks rebuilt .. .. .	2
Chimney stacks repaired .. .. .	8
Chimneys—flashings renewed .. .. .	3
Walls rebuilt .. .. .	3
External walls repaired .. .. .	5
Ceilings renewed or repaired .. .. .	11

Wall rendering renewed or repaired .. .. .	37
Floors renewed .. .. .	20
Floors repaired .. .. .	10
Skirting boards renewed .. .. .	14
Sub floor ventilation improved .. .. .	2
Dampness abated .. .. .	56
Fireplaces renewed or repaired .. .. .	6
Doors renewed or repaired .. .. .	18
New windows provided .. .. .	17
Windows repaired .. .. .	28
Window sill renewed or repaired .. .. .	5
Window lintels renewed or repaired .. .. .	0
Windows—sash cords provided .. .. .	23
Artificial lighting improved .. .. .	2
Natural lighting improved .. .. .	1
Ventilation improved .. .. .	2
Water service pipes renewed .. .. .	3
Water heating systems installed .. .. .	78
Bath or shower provided .. .. .	76
Wash-hand basins provided .. .. .	80
Kitchen sinks provided .. .. .	69
Kitchen sinks—waste pipes renewed .. .. .	2
Draining boards provided .. .. .	11
Staircases repaired .. .. .	4
Hand rails repaired or renewed .. .. .	2
Ventilated food cupboards or refrigerators provided .. .. .	9
Electric services repaired .. .. .	3
Gas services repaired .. .. .	1
Boundary fences renewed .. .. .	0
Rooms re-decorated .. .. .	10
Total .. .. .	928

## HOUSING ACTS

During the year there were no Clearance Areas declared, but nineteen houses in various parts of the town were demolished for redevelopment etc. Two Closing Orders were made and two were determined. At the time of writing this report there are no houses in prospect for either inclusion in Clearance Areas or as individual demolitions; and this is a true reflection of the very acute shortage of housing as it indicates the willingness of many house seekers to spend inordinate sums on premises which in other times would have unquestionably been considered as being beyond redemption.

## TAUNTON CORPORATION ACT 1931

Section 94 allows representations to be made to the Council if any proposed new building would adversely affect ventilation or conduce to make other buildings in its proximity unfit for human habitation or dangerous or injurious to health. However



with the more effective provisions of the Building Regulations this legislation is little used these days. During the year sixteen visits were made and in every instance the problems were resolved by on-site discussions with the builder or architect concerned.

**HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION**

The term “Houses in multiple occupation” often raises in the minds of the general public a vision of utter squalor of Dickensian proportions—mainly because such accommodation is often found in large old high-storied houses of Victorian vintage. This however is very far from reality at the present time, for it is plainly evident that most landlords have brought their premises up to a good standard of repair and provided the necessary amenities in accordance with the Council’s standards. As might be expected such premises which cater mainly for the housing needs of single persons or couples are in great demand and now form a permanent feature of the housing stock in all urban and to a lesser extent rural areas.

The number of such premises in Taunton has shown very little variation over the last five years, and remains at just over 200 with over 650 separate lettings. All premises receive a minimum of one visit a year, and any falling off in the standard of repair or amenities is rectified—usually by informal action. During the current year it has not been found necessary to impose any management orders or take any statutory action to achieve compliance.

**Summary of work carried out—Houses in Multiple Occupation**

**External—**

Chimney stacks repaired .. .. .	2
Roofs repaired .. .. .	17
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed .. .. .	4
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed .. .. .	5
Walls repaired .. .. .	7
Choked drains cleared .. .. .	3
Yard paving repaired or renewed .. .. .	3
Waterclosets repaired or renewed .. .. .	12
Drainage repaired or renewed .. .. .	6

**Internal—**

Walls repaired or renewed .. .. .	24
Ceilings repaired or renewed .. .. .	8
Floors repaired .. .. .	10
Doors repaired or renewed .. .. .	5
Windows repaired or renewed .. .. .	21
Staircases repaired .. .. .	2
Rooms redecorated .. .. .	4
Dampness abated .. .. .	48

Lighting and/or ventilation improved .. .. .	5
Larders repaired or renewed .. .. .	0
New ventilated larders provided or refrigerators .. .. .	4
Electric fittings repaired or provided .. .. .	4
Heating installations provided or repaired .. .. .	4
Hot water supply repaired or renewed .. .. .	7
Hot water supply provided .. .. .	11
Cold water supply repaired or renewed .. .. .	3
Wash hand basins repaired or renewed .. .. .	6
Sink and/or draining board renewed .. .. .	5
Cooking facilities provided or improved .. .. .	4
Additional W.C.'s provided .. .. .	2
Additional bathrooms provided .. .. .	2
Baths renewed or repaired .. .. .	1
Removal of accumulations .. .. .	4

#### **Other Items—**

Units of accommodation ceased to be used for multiple- occupation .. .. .	13
Number of cases of overcrowding reduced .. .. .	0
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>256</b>

### **RENT ACT, 1957**

The ineffectiveness of this Act is clearly shown by the fact that once again no Certificates of Disrepair were issued.

### **HOUSING ACT 1969 Section 45(2)**

This particular piece of legislation has been in force for about four years and is now producing the anticipated results. It is primarily designed to enable landlords to obtain fair rents in respect of their properties when they are in a good state of repair and provided with the standard amenities. During the year 56 applications were received, and 25 Qualification Certificates were issued. In addition 7 provisional Certificates were issued.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 — Section 24**

Under this section the Local Authority is empowered to clear those sewers which under previous Public Health Acts were the responsibility of the owners of such properties which they served. During the year 48 such sewers were found to be choked, and were cleared by the Corporation.

### **HOUSING SURVEY**

It has been the policy of this Department to regularly carry out house-to-house inspections, and for the last five years this has been expanded so as to take account of the necessity or otherwise of declaring Improvement Areas. During the current year a total of 234 houses—mainly terraced dwellings built in the 1920's or



earlier—were inspected and of the total 105 were in the southern part of the town and 129 in the northern part. This programme of inspection involved about 1,000 visits—many of which had to be made outside normal working hours either in the evenings or at week-ends.

The main objective of the survey was to obtain the following details :—

1. Whether the houses were owner-occupied or tenanted.
2. The general state of repair.
3. The provision or lack of standard amenities.
4. The general interest of owners or tenants in Improvement Grants, and the main reasons where applicable for not wishing to take advantage of such grants.
5. The feasibility of declaring an Improvement Area.

The houses in the Northern District were in Asquith Street, Gladstone Street, Greenway Road (part), Kingston Road (part), Roseberry Street and Salisbury Street; and in the Southern District Billet Street, Billetfield, Holway Hill, Holway Road, Mansfield Road, Mount Street and Victoria Street. The total number of houses which were owner/occupied was 104 (80.6%) in the first area and 80 (76.2%) in the second, representing an overall average of 78.6% which shows a slight increase of 2% over the previous year's figure. The average rent of £2.09 cannot be considered as entirely accurate due to the reluctance of some householders to give the necessary information.

Six houses were found to be in multiple-occupation, and in each instance steps were taken to ensure their compliance with the regulations and standards relative to such dwellings. They will in future be subject to regular inspection. As might be expected the general state of repair was somewhat higher in the owner/occupied homes; but even so there were only two houses classified as "fair" (which generally indicates the need for minor repairs)—the remaining 192 houses were all in a satisfactory state of repair. All houses had an estimated life of at least 15 years, and where necessary repairs were carried out as the result of informal action either on their own account, or in conjunction with the work of an Improvement Grant.

Fourteen of the owner/occupied houses lacked all or most of the standard amenities; and of these four of the owners expressed an immediate interest in an Improvement Grant. The remainder who were mainly elderly declined to take advantage of the scheme mainly because of the financial burden and partly because of the disturbance factor involved in any building operation. In the tenanted properties there were 16 premises which were short of all or most of the amenities, and of these there were 7 tenants who wished for the amenities to be provided—the remainder were not interested either for financial or other reasons.

# ANALYSIS OF HOUSING SURVEY 1973

## OWNER OCCUPIER

Total No. of all Houses	Houses Vacant	OWNER OCCUPIER															
		Total Number	State of Repair			Amenities Provided							I.G. Received	Premises Lacking all or most amenities			
			Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	Bath or Shower	Wash Hand Basin	Hot Water—Bath	Hot Water—Basin	Hot Water—Sink	Inside W.C.	Sink		Total	O/O Interested in I.G.	Lack of Interest due to	
																Finance	Other
7	—	2	2	—	—	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
38	1	36	33	3	—	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	7	1	—	1	—
19	—	14	14	—	—	14	12	14	12	13	14	14	2	2	1	1	—
27	3	22	21	1	—	22	21	21	21	21	21	21	4	1	1	—	—
10	1	4	3	1	—	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	2	2	—	—	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
105	5	80	75	5	—	79	76	78	76	77	78	78	13	4	2	2	—
9	—	8	8	—	—	8	7	8	7	8	8	8	—	—	—	—	—
33	3	21	19	2	—	20	20	19	19	19	20	20	9	2	1	1	—
17	1	13	9	1	—	10	10	10	10	12	13	13	3	3	—	3	—
10	—	8	8	—	—	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	4	1	—	1	—
9	1	7	7	—	—	7	7	7	7	7	6	7	2	1	1	—	—
51	2	47	44	3	—	46	45	45	45	46	45	46	17	3	—	3	—
129	7	104	95	9	—	98	96	96	95	100	100	102	35	10	2	8	—
234	12	184	170	14	—	177	172	174	171	177	178	180	48	14	4	10	—

ANALYSIS OF HOUSING SURVEY 1973

TENANTED (Average Rent £2 50p. per week)

Total number	Houses in Multi-Occupation	State of Repair			Amenities Provided							I.G. Received	Premises Lacking all or most amenities				Tenant's Formal Application		
		Satisfactory	Fair	Poor	Bath or Shower	Wash Hand Basin	Hot Water—Bath	Hot Water—Basin	Hot Water—Sink	Inside W.C.	Sink		Total	Tenant interested in I.G.	Lack of Interest due to				
															Finance	Other			
																			SOUTHERN AREA
5	3	5	—	—	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Billet Street
1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Billetfield
1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Holway Hill
5	—	3	1	1	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	Holway Road
2	—	2	—	—	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	Mansfield Road
5	2	4	1	—	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	Mount Street
1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Victoria Street
20	5	17	2	1	18	19	18	18	19	18	20	1	3	1	—	—	2	—	TOTAL
																			NORTHERN AREA
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	Asquith Street
9	—	2	6	1	3	2	3	2	7	3	8	1	7	3	2	2	—	—	Gladstone Street
3	—	—	3	—	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	Greenway Road
2	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	Kingston Road
1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Rosebery Street
2	1	—	2	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	Salisbury Street
18	1	5	12	1	8	7	7	6	13	7	14	1	13	6	4	3	—	—	TOTAL
38	6	22	14	2	26	26	25	24	32	25	34	2	16	7	4	5	—	—	COMBINED TOTALS



One of the most encouraging aspects of the exercise has been the considerable interest shown following the various visits and informal discussions with both owners and tenants: and as a result some of the 48 Grants which have been made in the two areas can be directly attributable. This is not the whole of the picture as other Grants are still in the pipe-line, and in other cases owners are in the process of considering the advantages of the scheme.

Taking into account the general state of repair of the houses which are in the two areas, and the fact that there are definite indications that the existing rate of improvement is likely to continue—which invariably occurs when the ownership changes—it is not recommended that an Improvement Area be declared.

### **NOISE**

Much has been written on this subject in the annual reports over the last five years, and it is quite evident, that this form of nuisance is an ever-increasing menace to the quality of our environment. To properly appreciate the complexities of this subject requires a highly sophisticated degree of knowledge and expertise in the public health inspector who has to investigate any noise complaints and advise on the best methods of control. Fortunately there are several universities and technical colleges who specialise in the subject, and arrange short courses up to a fortnight's duration for the post-graduate training of public health inspectors. Already some of the staff have taken advantage of this opportunity so that we are well equipped to deal effectively with problems in this sector of our responsibilities.

During the year we received 27 complaints and in all cases they were resolved by informal action, and this involved 143 visits—most of which involved evening or late night visits. The nature of the complaints ranged from dogs barking when locked up all day to late night working of factory machinery; and from mechanical hoists on building sites to excessive noise from fans in either ventilating or refrigerating systems at supermarkets. Another complaint involved the working of water pumps at night in connection with a civil engineering contract; and this was simply resolved by screening with straw bales, which shows that all the answers are not necessarily expensive ones.

### **CLEAN AIR ACT**

As might be expected this area does not really pose any serious problems in the form of atmospheric pollution from industrial plants and processes. Nevertheless we have a duty to see that any new boilers are installed in such a manner so as not to give rise to any nuisance; and to this end details are required to be sent to this office so that chimney heights and other relevant factors can be checked before any work proceeds. During the

year 6 applications were received in this connection; and 219 inspections and visits were made in connection with complaints or to make smoke observations.

In August we set up a station at Chadwick House to determine the sulphur dioxide and smoke content of the air. This will remain for about a twelve month period so that a very detailed assessment of the prevailing degree of pollution can be worked out; and afterwards it will be moved to other sites in the District for similar periods. The results will enable a decision to be made as to the desirability of declaring smokeless areas.

## **RODENT AND OTHER PESTS CONTROL**

This has been one of our busiest years as far as pest control has been concerned and the total of 3,471 visits shows an increase of about 50% over the 1972 figure (though this was below average due to staffing problems). Since Mr. Wood's retirement we had great difficulty in getting a Pest Control Operator; but this was resolved at the beginning of the year when Mr. Devenish was appointed to fill the vacancy. During the year he has carried out all his various duties in a cheerful and competent manner, and has shown himself to be a very good staff member. It gives me great pleasure to know that he has accepted an appointment on the new Taunton Deane District Council as a Technical Assistant with special responsibilities for pest control.

The number of complaints with regard to rodent infestation was 160 for rats and 153 for mice—a total increase of 65 on last year's figures. We were able once again to carry out the systematic treatment of sewers in the Borough and a total of 271 points were baited and it is encouraging to report that the number of "takes" has continued to show a marked decrease; and this will no doubt continue at an even greater rate as the new sewer system becomes established. Surveys were carried out whenever time and circumstances permitted and to this end over 700 test baits were laid, and the results enabled us to carry out eradication measures where infestations were found.

The number of wasps' nests was very low—being only 44—and all were destroyed by the Department at a nominal charge. In nearly all instances the service was much appreciated. There were 58 complaints concerning other insects and these included house flies, fleas, bed bugs, scabies, lice, cockroaches, carpet and furniture beetles and ants—all were dealt with by the Pest Control Operator.

Details of the work carried out are as overleaf:—



Treatments at private dwellings	..	..	..	..	330
Visits involved	..	..	..	..	766
Treatments at business premises	..	..	..	..	321
Visits involved	..	..	..	..	855
Treatments at Council premises	..	..	..	..	66
Visits involved	..	..	..	..	184
Survey visits	..	..	..	..	731
Wasps' nests destroyed	..	..	..	..	44
Other vermin etc.	..	..	..	..	50
Treatment of sewers	..	..	..	..	271
Visits involved	..	..	..	..	813
Drain tests	..	..	..	..	4

## Disinfection

During the year there were 7 cases where disinfection was required, and it was only possible to carry out the basic spraying, as unfortunately we are still without proper steam disinfecting facilities which at one time were available at the local hospital. The cost of such apparatus is very expensive, especially when considered in relation to the very limited use it is put to in the present day. However enquiries are being made to try and purchase a second-hand machine but so far the prospects are far from encouraging. The ideal solution would be to share the facilities with a number of adjoining authorities.

## SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO CONTROL BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

### Public Health Act 1936—Section 107.

In this Section are those businesses which require the consent of the local authority to operate an offensive trade. The number of such premises has remained unchanged for several years, and the occupiers are fully aware of the precautionary measures which are necessary to conduct their businesses without causing any nuisance.

The details are as under:—

Hide and Skin Depots	..	..	..	..	..	2
Tanners	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rag and Bone Merchants	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fat Extractors etc.	..	..	..	..	..	1

The Rag and Bone Merchants are subject to annual consent, but the others are without any limitation. The last named has not been operational all the year because of the difficulty of finding a competent operator; and this is just as well because there were numerous complaints in the past when only unskilled labour was available.

### **The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.**

Being an urban area with very little open space to spare the question of camping or caravan sites does not pose the same problems as our colleagues in the rural areas have to deal with as part of their regular duties. There is only one residential site in the Borough and that is very near the centre. It is a small site of about 20 vans, and is equipped and laid out in accordance with the Model Standards.

There are also three individual vans which have been conducted in a satisfactory manner.

The Fire Officer has arranged for fire-fighting demonstrations and drill for the occupiers of the residential site; and proper equipment is on site.

### **The Rag Flock and Other Filling Material Act 1951.**

This Act requires certain premises which use these materials to be registered; and they are subject to inspection, and any materials used are sent to an approved laboratory for a quality and purity analysis. There are three such premises in the Borough.

### **Pet Animals Act 1951.**

At one time we had numerous such premises but in recent years there has been a marked decrease so that at the present there are only three such establishments. All such premises from which vertebrates are sold must be licensed by the local authority who have to satisfy themselves that proper measures are being taken to ensure hygienic living conditions for the animals who must have adequate food and drink. Safety measures and fire precautions also have to be considered.

### **The Consumer Protection Act 1961**

### **The Oil Burners (Standards) Act 1960**

### **The Oil Heaters Regulations 1962.**

These Acts and Regulations set out very rigid specifications for oil heaters, and have done much to reduce the terrible losses in life and property which were directly attributable to badly designed heaters which were often completely lacking in any form of safety devices.

In previous years I have dealt in considerable detail with this subject and it is to be hoped that the Consumer Protection Department of the County Council—who will be taking over the responsibility for the enforcement of the Acts and Regulations—will be able to devote the time and attention to this very important function that it undoubtedly warrants.



**Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964.**

The main objective of this Act when it was introduced about ten years ago was an attempt to deal with the very extensive trade in stolen metals of all kinds. All dealers were required to register with a local authority and to keep proper records of their business transactions. There is close liaison with the police who have a vested interest in the subject ; and they are immediately informed of all additions and alterations to the register.

Number of registered dealers	..	..	..	..	..	11
------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----

**Sampling of Swimming Bath Water**

As can be so readily appreciated swimming baths can be extremely potent sources of numerous infections, so it is of the utmost importance that the standard of hygiene in such places should be of the very highest order. To this end spot checks are made each week to assess the amounts of residual and total chlorine and the Ph value of the water circulating in the baths ; and any falling-off in standards can be readily detected.

During the year 250 readings were taken and all were satisfactory. This is a very satisfactory record, and the manager and staff are to be congratulated on this achievement ; especially as the large and fluctuating numbers passing through the baths do not make the work any easier.

The staff of the department also give advice to operators of private pools on the correct methods of purification and control.

**Hairdressing Establishments**

The Borough Council were so concerned with the conditions which were prevalent in some of these establishments about ten years ago that they introduced Bye-laws specially to deal with them. These Bye-laws set standards of cleanliness with regard to premises, staff, and equipment ; and they are now strengthened by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963. All premises are regularly inspected and during the current year 56 such inspections or visits were made. A total of 17 contraventions were found, and all were remedied by informal action.

Number of ladies hairdressing establishments	..	..	..	35
Number of men's hairdressing establishments	..	..	..	17

## FOOD INSPECTION

### Visits in connection with the inspection and supervision of foods and food premises: and the sampling of food for bacteriological examination:

Bakers and Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	142
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	203
Dairies and Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	88
Fishmongers and poulterers	..	..	..	..	..	27
Food Preparation Premises	..	..	..	..	..	116
Fried fish premises	..	..	..	..	..	37
Grocers and Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	305
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	179
Market Stalls and Mobile Shops	..	..	..	..	..	38
Restaurants, Cafes and Canteens etc.	..	..	..	..	..	433
Sampling—various foodstuffs	..	..	..	..	..	129
Sampling—sausage agar	..	..	..	..	..	198
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	1179*
Wholesale Meat Depots	..	..	..	..	..	107
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	156
Total						3,337

\* Includes visits of Meat Inspector

This part of our work has always been considered one of the most important as it has such a close and pertinent association with the health and general well-being of the whole community. This fact has had a great influence on the detailed attention which is paid by all members of the Department in the inspection of every type of food premises and the examination of the food itself in its many and varied aspects, from the raw material, through all the stages of production and manufacture, to the time it is delivered to the retailer to be put on the shelves for display or stored prior to the actual sale to the general public. As might be expected all premises—especially those where food is actually prepared—receive both detailed inspections and spot checks several times a year; and any breaches of the Food Hygiene Regulations receive immediate attention. As will be seen from the above details 3,337 inspections and visits were made during 1973, and as a result 845 items received attention. These items were found mainly in the food preparation premises which shows an increase of over 20% over 1972's figures.

It must be appreciated that as the Regulations in one form or another have been in operation for over ten years large structural matters or heavy equipment have already received attention, so that it is more often than not the defects are ones of decoration, maintenance or replacement of faulty equipment, and provision of protective clothing.



The Public Health Laboratory are still not providing a service for the bacteriological examination of food stuffs such as meat products and cream which was initiated by them in the early sixties and proved such an outstanding success during the several years it was in operation. Although there may have been some shortcomings in the practice, it certainly had an excellent psychological effect on those shopkeepers whose wares were sampled and it was a great disappointment to us when this very worth-while service was withdrawn by the Laboratory itself.

However there was a bright spot in 1973 when after long and diligent searching we at last found an alternative source of supply in Denmark for Sausage Agar. So once again we were able to monitor the cleaning techniques etc. in the food premises; and after examining the results of such samples taken therewith give the appropriate advice to staff and management. It is pleasing to report that the practice is generally welcomed by all in the trade, and any advice is greatly appreciated.

There were 188 complaints concerning food. This shows an increase of about 50% over the last year's figure, and could be due possibly to the sharp increase in the price of nearly all foods so that customers are showing an even greater reluctance to accept second class food in any shape or form; or it might be due, we hope to an increasing awareness in the housewife of the necessity for having food both aesthetically and bacteriologically acceptable. Several of the major food concerns in the country have given a welcome lead in this direction, and many housewives now expect these high standards to obtain throughout the food industry whatever the size of the business involved. The number of cases which necessitated legal proceedings was four and these are detailed later in this report, but these low figures are not to be misconstrued that we take a lenient view of any contraventions; but many cases do not reach the courts either through lack of proper evidence, or the reluctance of possible witnesses to appear in court, or are of such a trivial nature as not to warrant such strong action. In such instances strong letters of censure are usually sent to the offenders, and this has been found sufficient to prevent any recurrence.

At the time of writing this report it is understood that there is a government committee sitting to study the question of date stamping of food. At first sight such a scheme seems to be the answer to everything; but there are difficulties both from the selling and buying angles so that neither party can be entirely satisfied with the idea. When such food is on display there is a very strong tendency for the buyer to always choose the freshest food, so that the shopkeeper for his part understocks rather than incur a wastage of what could well be fit food although it has passed the deadline. Certain sections of the food trade maintain



## Summary of Works carried out at all premises in 1973

	Butchers and Fishmongers	Bakers and Dairies etc.	Grocers and Greengrocers	Catering Premises	Licensed Premises	Market Stalls etc.	Total
<b>Works of Major Reconstruction</b> .. ..	—	2	2	9	2	0	15
<b>Food Rooms</b>							
Walls renewed or repaired ..	21	11	1	20	8	—	61
Walls redecorated .. ..	44	16	9	30	26	—	125
Ceilings renewed or repaired ..	9	5	—	8	1	—	23
Ceilings redecorated .. ..	17	6	2	18	13	—	56
Floors repaired or renewed ..	5	2	3	16	7	—	33
Improvement of lighting .. ..	2	1	—	4	1	—	8
Improvement of ventilation ..	1	—	1	2	3	—	7
Renewed or repaired drainage ..	4	1	—	3	5	—	13
Doors, windows etc. repaired ..	2	—	—	4	2	—	8
Premises cleansed .. ..	20	—	7	18	1	—	46
Yard surfaces repaired or renewed	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
<b>Equipment, etc.</b>							
New sinks provided .. ..	4	—	1	7	1	—	13
Hot water supply provided ..	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
New drainage boards provided ..	—	—	1	13	—	—	14
Preparation tables etc. retopped	5	3	3	19	2	—	32
New equipment etc. provided ..	9	4	2	23	2	—	40
Dustbins provided .. ..	5	—	2	10	—	2	19
Means of protection for food provided .. ..	13	12	21	23	4	3	76
Refrigerators provided .. ..	1	—	—	1	2	—	4
Equipment cleansed .. ..	19	2	5	21	—	—	47
<b>Sanitary Accommodation</b>							
New W.C.'s or urinals installed ..	1	—	—	—	3	—	4
New flushing cisterns provided ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sanitary accommodation repaired	2	—	3	2	8	—	15
Sanitary accommodation redecorated .. ..	2	5	3	3	6	—	19
Sanitary Notices fixed .. ..	5	—	6	3	4	—	18
<b>Toilet Accommodation</b>							
Wash-hand Basins provided ..	4	—	—	2	4	—	10
Hot water supply provided ..	2	—	—	—	1	1	4
Toilet requisites provided .. ..	13	5	7	7	2	2	36
Provision of lockers .. ..	—	1	—	—	2	—	3
<b>Miscellaneous</b>							
Protective clothing provided ..	60	—	—	19	2	1	82
Treatment of infestations .. ..	—	1	2	5	—	—	8
Provision of first-aid materials ..	5	—	—	2	1	7	15
Totals ..	279	75	80	284	111	16	845

that the scheme is bound to increase the price of food as they will have to allow a greater margin for wastage—this of course can be largely off-set by more careful planning and stock appreciation. Another very important point which must be borne in mind is that the date stamping does not guarantee that all food bought within the time limit is necessarily fit; and one wonders just how far the date stamp could be regarded as a warranty, as many shop-keepers would regard it as such. The more one examines the various aspects of the scheme the more evident are the many complications which face all interested parties; and it is doubtful if everyone will be completely satisfied.

**SPECIAL TYPES OF PREMISES SUBJECT  
TO REGISTRATION**

**Milk Supply**

The number of registered premises remains unchanged at eight; and after a number of new registrations and some deletions the number of Distributors of Milk now totals 44. At the present time the responsibility for the hygiene of the milk industry and the sampling programme lies with the Health Department of the County who sends us regular reports of all sampling results. However next year this function will be assigned to the new District Council, and at the present time consultation is taking place to ensure a smooth take-over in April when the new set-up becomes operational. A Technical Assistant with responsibilities for sampling has already been appointed in anticipation of this. The fact that we already have responsibilities over the food hygiene aspects of such premises (which are at present in the Borough) will mean that the overall control is under one authority, which should aid efficiency and administration.

**Ice Cream**

During the year there were five new registrations of premises used for the storage and sale of ice cream; and one such registration lapsed so that the total of registrations is now:—

Manufacture and sale	..	..	..	..	..	2
Storage and sale	..	..	..	..	..	117
Storage	..	..	..	..	..	1

**Food Preparation Premises**

Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 requires all premises where sausages are prepared or manufactured or other food is potted, pressed, pickled or preserved and is intended for sale must be registered with the local authority. As this covers a very wide field it is a most useful instrument in the hygienic control of those areas of the food industry which it embraces. The total of such registrations stands at 55.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

The importance of this form of control was appreciated many years ago and with the passing of time it has gained an even greater prominence so that in any progressive health department it has become standard practice to utilise all such available facilities to the full. At the present time we avail ourselves of the services offered by the Public Health Laboratory for the testing of ice cream, liquid egg, and water. After some considerable difficulty we now have a fresh source of Sausage Agar so are able to carry out a detailed testing of the many food preparation premises with special attention being paid to their cleaning methods and use of equipment etc.

### Ice Cream

During the year 53 samples of ice cream were taken comprising:—

			Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Hot Mix	..	..	34	6	2	2
Cold Mix	..	..	3	—	—	—
Soft Ice Cream		..	3	1	2	—

Although the great majority of results are highly satisfactory being either Grades 1 or 2, the others caused us considerable concern. In each instance a thorough investigation was carried out when it was found that the trouble was not in any way due to faulty materials but to bad cleaning techniques of the spoons or scoops used to handle the ice cream. The persons concerned were advised as to the proper methods to be adopted, and follow-up sampling gave good results.

### Liquid Egg

This is processed at a very modern plant where most of the eggs are dealt with by extremely sophisticated machinery which removes the shells and pasteurises the whole egg, and at the same time pulverises the shells for ease of disposal. If necessary the yolks and glair can be separated and processed separately. During the year a total of 87 samples were taken, comprising 39 of raw albumen (or glair) 39 of raw whole egg, and 8 of pasteurised. All the pasteurised samples passed the Alpha Analyse test; but of the others two of the raw whole egg were infected by *Salmonella Typhimurium* and *Salmonella Livingstone*, and the affected batches were traced and subjected to pasteurisation. The rest of the raw egg and the glair were free of infection.



## **Water**

The long established practice of monitoring the bacterial quality of water supplies has continued as in previous years. Samples as well as being taken from mains supply are also taken of raw and treated water at the Fulwood Works and from a private borehole source. The total of samples was 212 with 180 from the mains supply, 25 of raw water, and 7 from the borehole. Apart from two mains tap samples the results were satisfactory. The two in question showed some small degree of contamination which on investigation showed that the actual water was satisfactory, but was going through taps with faulty washers. These were replaced, and afterwards there was no further trouble.

## **Metals in Drinking Water**

During the year the Department has co-operated with the Public Analyst—Miss Peden—in carrying out a survey of drinking water in the Borough to assess the amounts of certain metals therein and to ascertain if they exceed the recommended limits. The results are given in the following table. It should be noted that in five instances (marked \*) the amounts were above the recommended limits; and in the case of the 3.4 parts of copper it was recommended by the Analyst that such water should not be used for either drinking or cooking. The other excesses were only marginal and no restriction was thought to be necessary.

**Summary of Reports of Chemical Analyses on  
Samples of Water**

Sample No.	Parts per million				
	Total Solids	Lead (as Pb)	Copper (as Cu)	Zinc (as Zn)	Iron (as Fe)
1	130.0	0.01	Nil	Less than 0.5	Nil
2	110.0	Nil	Nil	0.5	Nil
3	110.0	0.01	Nil	Nil	0.14
4	135.0	0.03	Nil	0.6	0.18
5	100.0	Nil	Nil	Less than 0.5	Nil
6	100.0	0.02	3.4*	Nil	Nil
7	—	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
8	—	—	0.37	Nil	Nil
9	—	—	0.06	Nil	Nil
10	—	—	1.1*	Nil	Nil
11	170.0	0.03	0.05	0.73	Nil
12	160.0	0.02	0.05	1.48	Nil
13	117.0	0.01	0.10	Nil	Nil
14	104.0	0.01	Nil	0.28	Nil
15	102.0	0.01	Nil	1.04	0.15
16	—	0.02	Nil	Nil	Nil
17	—	Nil	Nil	Less than 0.2	Nil
18	—	Less than 0.01	Nil	Less than 0.2	Nil
19	—	Nil	Nil	Less than 0.2	Nil
20	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
21	—	Less than 0.01	0.05	Nil	0.2
22	—	Less than 0.01	0.1	Nil	1.0*
23	—	Less than 0.01	0.25	Nil	1.5*
24	—	0.02	Nil	Nil	Nil
25	—	0.01	Nil	Nil	Nil
26	—	Nil	Nil	Less than 0.5	Nil
27	—	Less than 0.01	Nil	Less than 0.5	0.4*
28	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
29	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
30	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
31	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
32	—	0.05	0.04	1.4	0.08



## AGAR SAUSAGE SAMPLING

Apart from the ice cream and liquid egg samples which are the only foodstuffs which the Public Health Laboratory will examine bacteriologically on a routine basis, sausage agar offers the only means by which we are able to form any precise idea of the hygiene standards practised in the various food premises of the town. As I reported last year we lost our source of supply of the Agar Sausage because the limited demand for the product made it an unprofitable proposition for the manufacturers. However after much intensive searching we at last found an alternative source in Denmark and were able to resume our testing in May. It is to be sincerely hoped that this source does not dry up as well. The practice is extremely useful in educating all sections of the food industry of the absolute necessity of maintaining the very highest standards of hygiene at all times, as it clearly demonstrates in a most unequivocal manner how easy it is for contamination to take place even after a fractional lapse. All members of the food trade seem to welcome such visits and the follow-up visits which are used to show where there is any weakness in the hygienic practices or cleansing techniques, and how such short-comings can be set right.

The total number of samples was 198, of these 24 were negative, 72 were slight, 52 medium, and 50 heavy. These figures are very far from satisfactory and clearly indicate a falling off in the standards which were achieved two years ago, and this is probably due to the control which was lost when the media was unobtainable. It clearly shows that there is ample scope for education of all interested parties from management down to the cooks and dishwashers etc. It is hoped that next year's figure will show a marked improvement.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Slight</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Heavy</i>
Baking tins .. .. .	—	1	1	—
Beer Machine .. .. .	1	1	—	—
Bowls (Stainless steel) .. .. .	—	1	2	—
Containers (Stainless steel) .. .. .	—	—	1	2
Colander .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Cup .. .. .	—	2	1	—
Cutting Board .. .. .	1	1	1	3
Dishes .. .. .	—	—	—	1
Dish Cloths .. .. .	—	1	1	7
Draining boards .. .. .	—	1	—	2
Dishwasher tray .. .. .	—	—	1	—
Fish slice .. .. .	1	—	—	1
Forks .. .. .	3	3	2	—
Gas cooker .. .. .	—	2	1	—
Glasses—various .. .. .	2	6	1	—
Grater .. .. .	—	1	—	—
Heating tin .. .. .	—	1	—	—

Ice cream dish	..	..	..	—	1	—	—
Ice cream scoop	..	..	..	—	1	2	—
Jugs	..	..	..	—	2	1	1
Knives—preparation	..	..	..	1	2	4	—
Knives—table	..	..	..	1	4	—	—
Ladles	..	..	..	1	1	2	2
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	—	1	—	1
Milk churn	..	..	..	—	—	3	—
Mixer	..	..	..	1	1	—	1
Mixing paddle	..	..	..	—	—	—	1
Mugs	..	..	..	—	3	—	—
Oven cloth	..	..	..	—	—	3	—
Piping bag	..	..	..	—	—	1	—
Plates—various	..	..	..	4	1	3	—
Preparation table tops	..	..	..	2	4	2	2
Saucers	..	..	..	—	1	1	—
Saucepans	..	..	..	—	2	—	1
Shelves..	..	..	..	—	4	2	3
Sinks	..	..	..	—	—	—	1
Slicing machines	..	..	..	—	3	1	2
Spatula	..	..	..	—	1	—	—
Spoons—various	..	..	..	2	2	1	1
Stainless steel tops	..	..	..	1	3	2	1
Strainer..	..	..	..	—	1	—	1
Rolling pin	..	..	..	—	3	—	—
Refrigerator	..	..	..	—	—	—	1
Tea cloths etc.	..	..	..	—	1	1	3
Taps	..	..	..	—	—	3	1
Thumbs	..	..	..	—	—	2	1
Trolleys and trays	..	..	..	2	2	2	3
Tongs	..	..	..	—	1	—	—
Warming cabinet	..	..	..	—	1	—	—
Wash hand basin	..	..	..	—	—	—	1
Wall tiles	..	..	..	—	2	2	3
Warming pan	..	..	..	—	1	1	2
Whisk	..	..	..	—	1	—	—
Wood table tops	..	..	..	—	1	1	1
Totals				24	72	52	50

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

During the year legal proceedings were instituted in only four instances and these involved two retailers who contravened the actual Act; and no proceedings were taken under any of the various Regulations. In each instance they originated through a dissatisfied customer making a complaint to this Department. It must be remembered that it is only a relatively small percentage of complaints which result in court action, the remainder being dealt with informally because of the reluctance of witnesses to appear in court, lack of proper evidence, or the triviality of some complaints.

## Details of offences:—

OFFENCES					RESULT
1.	Sale of mouldy dessert	..	..	..	£25 fine imposed
2.	Sale of mouldy yogurt	..	..	..	£25 fine imposed
3.	Sale of unsound chicken giblets	..	..		£12 fine imposed
4.	Exposure for sale of unsound chicken giblets	..			£12 fine imposed

## Food Inspection

As a result of inspection of food at food shops and warehouses, the following commodities were condemned :

TINNED GOODS					FROZEN FOODS				
Soup	..	..	45	tins	Meat products	..	2132	pkts.	
Baked beans	..	..	91	"	Fish products	..	1829	"	
Vegetables	..	..	438	"	Vegetables	..	1294	"	
Peas	..	..	96	"	Fruit	..	19	"	
Fruit	..	..	828	"	Fruit juice	..	119	"	
Fruit juice	..	..	125	"	Cakes	..	1499	"	
Meat	..	..	104	"	Pastry	..	137	"	
Fish	..	..	119	"	Pies	..	1436	"	
Spaghetti	..	..	24	"	Chips	..	98	"	
Milk puddings	..	..	65	"	Mousse	..	1211	"	
Milk, cream	..	..	83	"	Ice cream	..	1178	"	
Baby food	..	..	23	"					
OTHER FOODS									
Butter	..	..	86	lbs.	Cooking fat	..	28	"	
Margarine	..	..	6	"	Pies	..	78		
Cheese	..	..	55	"	Coffee	..	15	jars	
Sugar	..	..	16	"	Jam, syrup	..	76	"	
Flour	..	..	68	"	Dried peas etc.	..	18	pkts.	
Sausages	..	..	86	"	Salt	..	75	"	
Bacon	..	..	74	"	Cereals	..	218	"	
Cooked meat	..	..	27	"	Dried fruit	..	194	"	
Poultry	..	..	1556	"	Biscuits	..	10	"	
Fish	..	..	105	"	Miscellaneous	..	101	pkts. jars	
Rice	..	..	49	"	Drinks	..	41	tins, bts.	

## MEAT INSPECTION

This is without doubt our most demanding duty in so far it brooks of no delay or postponement as the Regulations require an inspector to be present whenever slaughtering takes place; and in those slaughterhouses which have adopted the line system this may necessitate the services of two or three inspectors at the same time. In Taunton there are two private slaughterhouses with very small through-puts mainly limited to the demands of their retail shops. The class of animal which is killed is of the highest quality so that very few problems are encountered.



However, well over ninety percent of all meat inspection is at the large bacon factory which operates the line system. As the through-put is 120 pigs per hour it is absolutely necessary for at least two inspectors to be on duty all the time killing takes place if the inspection is to be carried out correctly. At the present time the service is staffed by one of the Public Health Inspectors on a rota system plus a full-time meat inspector.

This is the first time for many years when we have not had a case of *Cysticercus bovis*; but this does not reflect the picture generally as there has been little variation of such affected carcasses received at the local cold store for the recommended treatment. The number of pigs killed again showed a decrease and the total of 66,042 was about 10% below the previous year's figures. The total number of pigs wholly condemned for diseases other than T.B. was 138 which shows an increase over the previous year's figure of 82 but did include 78 casualties—some of which were immature. Animals affected in part with diseases other than T.B. dropped by about 7,000 to 10,354 or 15.4% of all pigs killed. No pig carcasses were dondemned for T.B. and only 1,099 parts or 1.64% were so affected.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year:

Beasts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	132
Cows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sheep and Lambs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	996
Calves	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66,042
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	67,171

The inspection of the above carcasses revealed diseases as set out in the following table:

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	132	1	—	993	66,042
Number inspected	132	1	—	996	66,042
Whole carcasses condemned for disease other than T.B.	—	—	—	—	138*
Carcases from which some part or organ was condemned		8	—	15	10,354
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	6.02%		—	1.50%	15.41%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases from which some part or organ was condemned		—	—	—	1,099
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	—		—	—	1.64%
Cysticercus Bovis—					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—				
Carcases subjected to treatment by refrigeration	—				
Carcases generalised and totally condemned	—				

\* Includes 78 casualties



In addition, the following meat was condemned at butchers' premises on account of bone taint and other causes :

Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	610 lbs.
Lamb	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	190 „
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	167 „
Offal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	480 „

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS

The main feature of the weather for 1973 was the total rainfall of 25.50 inches which is the lowest since 1964 when the very low figures of 19.38 inches was recorded, and is about three and a half inches below average. As might be expected the number of days on which rain fell was 136 which was slightly below the previous year's figure and 40 below average ; and the number of days with .04 inches or more was 100 which is 24 below average. May was the wettest month with 3.67 inches, and March was the driest with only 0.31 inches. The heaviest single day's rainfall was 1.42 inches and occurred on 25th June. No significant falls of snow occurred, but there were a few hailstorms of varying intensity.

The general barometric pressure—as might be expected with the low rainfall—was higher than usual being 30.04 for the annual average, which is well above the average of 29.93. The highest reading of 30.66 was on January 8th and the lowest of 28.82 on February 16th.

The average temperature was 49.97 which was slightly above average—the warmest month was August with an average of 62.89 whereas it is usually July. The hottest day occurred on 14th August with 85.00. The coldest month was February with an average of 40.41 which was unexceptional, and the coldest day was February 14th when there were 11 degrees of frost.

The feature of the weather which seems to arouse most interest is the number of hours of sunshine and these in 1973 were 1,544.25 which shows an increase of about 70 hours on the previous year but is still slightly below the average. The number of sunless days was 78 which is 11 over the average, the largest number being in January with 19. The sunniest month was June with 239.75 hours which exceeded that month's average by about 20 ; and December with 28.25 was the lowest and about 11 below average. The maximum hours of sunshine on any one day occurred on 15th June with 15.50 hours.

The figures below set out the main readings for 1973 as compared with those in the previous year and the annual averages :

	Mean Barometer	Mean Temperature	Hours of Sunshine	Sunless Days	Total Rainfall	Days rain fell	Days of .04 inches rain or more
1972	29.93	49.09	1,477.00	79	30.67	149	112
1973	30.04	49.97	1,544.25	78	25.50	136	100
Average	29.94	49.65	1,553.54	67	28.99	175	124

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS FOR 1973

Month	Barometer			Thermometer			Sunshine			Rainfall		
	Mean	Max.	Min.	Mean	Max.	Min.	Hours	Maximum Reading	Sunless Days	Inches	Days Rain Fell	Max. Reading
JANUARY ..	30.15	30.66	29.22	40.61	54	25	28.25	5.25	19	1.56	8	0.59
FEBRUARY ..	29.92	30.46	28.82	40.41	51	21	79.50	7.75	7	1.16	10	0.32
MARCH ..	30.29	30.63	29.60	42.23	63	23	149.50	9.75	4	0.31	6	0.09
APRIL ..	30.03	30.45	29.45	45.53	64	25	160.00	11.25	4	1.52	12	0.57
MAY ..	29.92	30.32	29.44	52.69	70	31	170.00	13.50	2	3.67	17	0.93
JUNE ..	30.10	30.48	29.90	57.07	76	36	239.75	15.50	6	2.93	7	1.42
JULY ..	29.93	30.27	29.42	59.45	76	39	195.25	13.50	1	2.81	12	1.05
AUGUST ..	30.07	30.29	29.50	62.89	85	46	185.75	13.00	3	2.39	11	0.94
SEPTEMBER ..	29.98	30.33	29.23	58.37	79	37	154.75	9.75	—	2.35	13	0.48
OCTOBER ..	30.00	30.58	29.26	48.92	66	30	83.75	9.00	8	1.60	11	0.60
NOVEMBER ..	30.15	30.53	29.55	45.45	62	23	62.00	6.50	9	1.43	12	0.29
DECEMBER ..	29.93	30.55	29.02	42.82	62	23	46.25	4.75	15	2.02	17	1.39
TOTAL	30.04	—	—	49.97	—	—	1,544.25	—	78	25.50	136	100



**Ave. Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1973**

<b>BAROMETER</b>				<b>TEMPERATURE</b>				<i>degs. F.</i>
<b>Annual Average</b>	..	..	29.94	<b>Annual Average</b>	..	..	..	49.65
June	..	..	29.99	July	..	..	..	61.53
July	..	..	29.98	August	..	..	..	60.67
February	..	..	29.96	June	..	..	..	58.15
September	..	..	29.95	September	..	..	..	56.73
August	..	..	29.95	May	..	..	..	52.57
March	..	..	29.94	October	..	..	..	50.84
October	..	..	29.94	April	..	..	..	47.34
May	..	..	29.92	November	..	..	..	44.40
April	..	..	29.92	March	..	..	..	43.29
December	..	..	29.90	December	..	..	..	41.02
November	..	..	29.89	January	..	..	..	40.26
January	..	..	29.88	February	..	..	..	40.12

<b>Hours of Sunshine</b>				<b>Number of Sunless Days</b>			
<b>Annual Average</b>	..	..	1553.54	<b>Annual Average</b>	..	..	66.83
June	..	..	218.45	July	..	..	1.41
May	..	..	204.60	August	..	..	1.63
July	..	..	204.24	June	..	..	1.76
August	..	..	186.51	May	..	..	1.98
April	..	..	152.64	September	..	..	2.98
September	..	..	131.63	April	..	..	3.04
March	..	..	118.64	October	..	..	4.62
October	..	..	101.80	March	..	..	5.27
February	..	..	75.37	February	..	..	8.15
November	..	..	61.60	November	..	..	9.57
January	..	..	45.49	January	..	..	13.64
December	..	..	37.79	December	..	..	14.06

## Average Meteorological Readings at Taunton 1919 to 1973

RAINFALL				NUMBER OF DAYS RAIN FELL			
			<i>inches</i>				<i>days</i>
<b>Annual Average</b>	..	..	28.99	<b>Annual Average</b>	..	..	175.40
November	..	..	3.35	December	..	..	18.02
December	..	..	3.12	January	..	..	17.29
January	..	..	3.08	November	..	..	17.20
October	..	..	2.83	October	..	..	15.71
September	..	..	2.46	August	..	..	14.25
May	..	..	2.38	September	..	..	13.85
August	..	..	2.29	February	..	..	13.80
July	..	..	2.17	April	..	..	13.67
February	..	..	2.12	May	..	..	13.67
April	..	..	2.00	July	..	..	13.02
March	..	..	1.91	March	..	..	12.96
June	..	..	1.72	June	..	..	11.18

### DAYS OF RAINFALL OF .04 INCHES OR MORE

			<i>days</i>
<b>Annual Average</b>	..	..	124.02
December	..	..	12.81
November	..	..	12.55
January	..	..	12.35
October	..	..	11.09
May	..	..	10.19
August	..	..	9.98
September	..	..	9.84
February	..	..	9.73
April	..	..	9.61
July	..	..	8.84
March	..	..	8.80
June	..	..	7.96

## **OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963**

It is well nigh impossible to state just which of our manifold duties is the most important, but this particular one must inevitably be very high on our list of priorities as it affects the working conditions, welfare and safety of most of those who spend a large part of their working life in such premises and who form a very significant part of the country's total work force.

In Taunton there are about 630 registered premises, involving over 7,700 workers and the picture is forever changing with new businesses coming into being and old ones dropping out, which means there can be no relaxation if the staff are to keep abreast of all changes and developments. The work forms part of the normal routine of the Public Health Inspectors who are assisted by a full-time Technical Assistant—Miss B. Cullimore, who carries out all the various aspects of her duties in a most meticulous and pains-taking manner. All premises receive a visit at least once in two years and more often if circumstances warrant it, or if they should also be subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970. During the current year 135 detailed inspections were made besides 824 visits, which shows a significant increase over the 1972 figures which were 116 and 499 respectively. Most of the premises which have been registered for a number of years require little to be done structurally, so that it is only newly registered premises which figure in this category and many of the faults which were found to need attention are concerned with redecoration, cleansing, insufficient lighting or ventilation, poor heating or lack of first-aid and toilet materials.

The question of safety in all its various aspects—guards on guillotines and slicing machines, security of high shelving, guard rails around high openings, lifts of all descriptions and improperly secured floor coverings etc. etc.—receives very careful consideration. All accidents are thoroughly investigated and where necessary, recommendations are made to avoid any recurrence. A total of 22 accidents were reported.

Close liaison is maintained with the Factory Inspectorate and the Fire Officer, as these also have a close interest in the operation and administration of the Act.



During the year informal notices were served in respect of 399 items requiring attention in order to secure conformity with the Act.

These items are as detailed in the schedule below :

Type of premises	Sanitary Accommodation								Washing Facilities							
	Ventilation	Lighting	Cleanliness	Identification	Additional Accommodation	Door Fastenings	Unsuitable accommodation, discontinue use	Renew fittings	Ventilation	Lighting	Cleanliness	Toilet Requisites	Renew fittings	Hot water supply	Additional Accommodation	Drinking water
Shops	—	4	13	2	—	2	1	8	3	1	3	3	3	1	2	—
Offices	—	—	10	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	—	1	—	2
Catering Premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Wholesale Warehouses	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	2	—	—
TOTAL	1	5	23	7	—	2	2	8	3	3	11	5	6	4	2	2

Other Items																
Cleanliness	Overcrowding	Seating facilities	Staircases, floors, passages	Temperatures	Ventilation	Lighting	Accommodation for clothing	Machinery	First Aid	Safety	Abstract of Act	Waste Bins	Registration	Unsuitable accommodation, discontinue use	Noise	
43	—	1	45	8	5	7	6	—	9	10	11	1	1	7	—	200
22	1	1	25	5	2	10	4	—	5	35	10	—	1	—	—	147
17	—	—	4	—	1	1	—	—	2	3	—	2	—	—	—	34
4	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
86	1	2	80	13	8	18	10	—	16	48	21	3	2	7	—	399

TABLE A		(1) Class of premises	(2) Number of premises newly registered during the year	(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year	(4) Number of registered premises receiving one or more general Inspections during the year
REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS		Offices .. .. .	21	225	98
		Retail shops .. .. .	11	321	193
		Wholesale Shops, Warehouses .. .. .	2	35	15
		Catering establishments open to the public. Canteens .. .. .	4	46	46
		Fuel storage Depots .. .. .	—	4	2
		TOTALS.. .. .	38	631	364
TABLE B		Number of visits of all kinds (including General Inspections) to Registered Premises ..			959
TABLE C		(1) Class of Workplace	(2) Number of Persons employed		
ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE		Offices .. .. .	3,757		
		Retail Shops .. .. .	2,960		
		Wholesale Departments, Warehouses .. .. .	344		
		Catering Establishments open to the public .. .. .	601		
		Canteens .. .. .	16		
		Fuel Storage Depots .. .. .	35		
		TOTAL .. .. .	7,713		
		TOTAL MALES .. .. .	3,209		
		TOTAL FEMALES .. .. .	4,504		



## FACTORIES ACT, 1961

### 1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes as to provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	15	6	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	224	413	4	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	6	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	243	425	4	—

### 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	4	4	—	2	—

## OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list	Section 133		Section 134	
		No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	76	—	—	—	—

Outworkers are employed by large factories, and work is carried out in the homes of employees. The system has many advantages both for the employer and worker, as the former does not have to provide any accommodation and the worker can pick his own time when to work. However, powers are necessary to control working conditions so as to ensure equal standards to those in the factories themselves, and to safeguard against the spread of infectious diseases.









